GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:57
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
SWITCHOVER TO ORGANIC FARMING
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many of the farmers in the country are slowly switching over from chemical farming to organic farming;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey on the organic farming in the country and its outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote organic farming and to provide easy financial assistance/credit to the farmers for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 57 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Although no survey on organic farming has been conducted by the government, however, according to information collected, certified area under organic farming has reached 3.12 lakh hectares, in the country.

(c)&(d): The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country, wherein financial assistance is being provided for the capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units of fruits/vegetables waste compost, bio-fertilizers and Vermiculture hatcheries, promotion of organic farming through training programme, field demonstrations, setting up of model organic farms and market development.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country from 2005-06 under which promotion of organic farming has been included as one of the components and financial assistance is being provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi compost units and for organic farming certification.

In addition, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry is promoting export of organic products and implementing National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). Under the Scheme financial assistance is being provided to its registered exporters for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, R&D and transport assistance.

(e): Question does not arise.